

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1, 4-5, 11, and 18-34 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 4-5, and 11 are amended, claims 18-34 are added, and claims 2-3, 6-10, and 12-17 are cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Support for the claims can be found throughout the specification, including the original claims and the drawings. Withdrawal of the rejections in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

I. Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

The Office Action rejects claims 1-2 and 6-17 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Suzuki et al., U.S. Patent No. 4,001, 842 (hereinafter "Suzuki") in view of Im et al., U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0067117 (hereinafter "Im"). Claims 2, 6-10, and 12-17 are cancelled. The rejection, in so far as it applies to claim 1, is respectfully traversed.

Independent claim 1 recites, *inter alia*, a plurality of strip-type slots aligned uniformly running parallel to each other along an axis of the shadow mask, including at least one angled surface formation on at least one inner side surface of each of the strip type slots, and a plurality of bridges located between adjacent slots of the plurality of strip type slots, wherein each bridge has angled surfaces formed on each inner side surface thereof. Independent claim 11 recites, *inter alia*, a plurality of holes aligned uniformly running parallel to each other along an axis of the shadow mask, including at least one angled surface formed on at least one inner side surface of

each of the plurality of holes, wherein each of the holes has a shape and a size corresponding to a pixel region of the organic electroluminescent device. Suzuki neither discloses nor suggests such features.

Suzuki discloses a color cathode ray tube including a glass panel 21 and an electroluminescent screen 22 with alternating light absorbing stripes 23 and phosphor stripes 24R, 24G, and 24B. A shadow mask 25 with apertures 31 formed in parallel vertical rows separated by beam intercepting bridge portions 32 is fixed to the panel 21. Suzuki neither discloses nor suggests that any of the inner side surfaces of the shadow mask 25 are angled, let alone those forming the inner side surfaces of the apertures 31 or the bridges 32. Further, Im fails to overcome the deficiencies of Suzuki.

Im discloses in Figures 1-2 a tension mask assembly 10 for a cathode ray tube, including a plurality of slots 13 formed between a plurality of strips 12, with real bridges 14 supporting the slots, and dummy bridges 15 connecting the strips and the slots 13. Likewise, Im discloses in Figures 3-4 a shadow mask with slots 33 formed between stripes 32, and dummy bridges 35 connecting the slots 33. The “real” bridge 14 is simply a squared off portion between adjacent slots 13, and Im neither discloses nor suggests at least one angled surface formation on at least one inner side surface of each of the slots, as recited in independent claim 1, nor at least one angled surface formed on at least one inner side surface of each of the plurality of slots, as recited in independent claim 11. Further, the dummy bridges 15, 35 are simply narrowed

apertures or slots connecting the larger slots 13, 33, respectively, to essentially form one, elongated slot with a narrowed center portion, and these slot/dummy bridge combinations 13/15 and 33/35 disclosed by Im do not form a plurality of slots or holes as recited in independent claims 1 and 11, respectively, nor a plurality of bridges as recited in independent claim 1.

For at least these reasons, it is respectfully submitted that independent claims 1 and 11 are allowable over the applied combination, and thus the rejection of independent claims 1 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Suzuki and Im should be withdrawn.

The Office Action rejects claims 3-5 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Suzuki and Im in view of Kawamura et al, U.S. Patent No. 5,523,647 (hereinafter "Kawamura"). Claim 3 is cancelled. The rejection, in so far as it applies to claims 4-5, is respectfully traversed.

Dependent claims 4-5 are allowable over Suzuki and Im at least for the reasons set forth above with respect to independent claim 1, from which they depend, as well as for their added features. Further, Kawamura fails to overcome the deficiencies of Suzuki and Im. More specifically, Kawamura discloses a shadow mask assembly 7, including a slot type shadow mask 8 with bridges 8f connecting adjacent grilles 8e, the bridges 8f and grilles 8e having sections which are concave in opposite directions to each other to form a number of slots 11, as shown in Figure 3B of Kawamura. The bridges 8f are separate from the grilles 8e, and are attached to the grilles 8e so as to absorb a compressive force and enhance reliability of the assembly 7. The

inner side surfaces of the slots 11 formed in the grilles 8e are clearly not angled, and Kawamura neither discloses nor suggests at least one angled surface formation on at least one inner side surface of each of the slots, as recited in independent claim 1, nor at least one angled surface formed on at least one inner side surface of each of the plurality of slots, as recited in independent claim 11.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claims 4-5 are allowable over the applied combination, and thus the rejection of claims 4-5 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Suzuki, Im, and Kawamura should be withdrawn.

II. New Claims 18-37

New claims 18-37 are added to the application. It is respectfully submitted that new claims 18-28 and 35-37 meet the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112, and are allowable at least for the reasons set forth above with respect to independent claims 1 and 11, from which they respectively depend, as well as for their added features. Further, it is respectfully submitted that new claims 29-34 also define over the applied prior art references and meet the requirements of

More specifically, new independent claim 29 recites, *inter alia*, at least one angled surface formed on at least one inner side surface of each of the plurality of strip type slots. As set forth above, Suzuki neither discloses nor suggests such features, and each of Im and Kawamura fail to overcome the deficiencies of Suzuki. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that new

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independent claim 18 is allowable over Suzuki, Im, and Kawamura, either alone or in combination. New dependent claims 30-34 are allowable at least for the reasons set forth above with respect to independent claim 29, from which they depend, as well as for their added features.

III. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that any additional changes would place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned, **JOANNA K. MASON**, at the telephone number listed below.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this,

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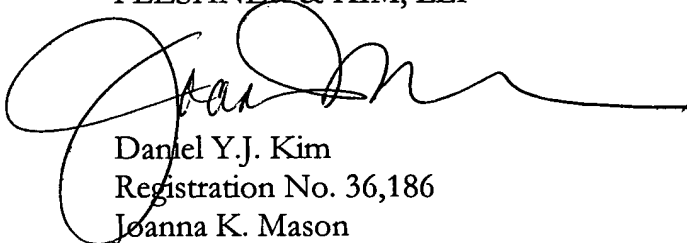
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concurrent and future replies, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 16-0607 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,
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